

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 012012

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66614

DRAFTED BY: ARA/MGT:CWGROVER

APPROVED BY: ARA/MGT:KDACKERMAN

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R 172143Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

UNCLAS STATE 012012

SANTIAGO FOR JOHN TIPTON/SAO PAULO FOR FRED CHAPIN

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUENOS AIRES 0284 ACTION SECSTATE DTD 14 JAN

QTE

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 0284

FOR KARL ACKERMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, APER, BEXP, AR

SUBJECT: VISA ISSUANCES

REF BUENOS AIRES 9315

1. UPON RETURN FROM CHIEF OF MISSION CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON I WAS AGAIN BRIEFED BY CONSUL GENERAL AND BY A/DCM, WHO WAS CHARGE' IN MY ABSENCE, CONCERNING INCREASINGLY CRITICAL MANPOWER SHORTAGE IN CONSULAR SECTION.

2. INABILITY OF CONSULAR SECTION TO MEET INCREASING DEMANDS FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISA SERVICES AS RESULT OF SHORTAGE IS AFFECTING ENTIRE EMBASSY AS ALL SECTIONS CONTINUOUSLY RECEIVE THROUGHOUT EACH DAY INCREASING REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE FROM CONTACTS OR  
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PAGE 02 STATE 012012

FRIENDS OF CONTACTS WHO WISH VISAS BUT WHO CANNOT GET IN THE DOOR.

3. CONSULAR SECTION HAS HAD TO LIMIT WALK-INS TO 50 PER DAY PLUS 5 CASES PER DAY FOR FIRST 20 IN LINE FROM SOME 70 TRAVEL AGENCIES TOTAL CASE LOAD FROM THESE 2 ELEMENTS RUNNING AROUND 150 PER DAY. IN ADDITION CONSUL GENERAL WHO FOR PAST 6 MONTHS HAD BEEN HANDLING 25 TO 50 CASES PER DAY PERSONALLY HAS AS RESULT OF "RECOMENDADOS" FROM EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND HIGH PLACED OFFICIALS IN ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND FOREIGN EMBASSIES BEEN AVERAGING ONE HUNDRED CASES PER DAY HANDLED PERSONALLY SINCE GROSSMAN DEPARTED IN DECEMBER. TOTAL DAILY CASE LOAD THEREFORE AROUND 250 PLUS.

4. WHILE FIGURE OF 100 IN ITSELF MEANS LITTLE, IT POINTED OUT THAT DURING 8 HOUR DAY A FIGURE OF 96 REFLECTS ONE CASE EVERY FIVE MINUTES. NIV CASE LOAD FOR CALENDAR 1974 WAS OVER 51,000.

5. IN SPITE OF EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS OF CONSULAR STAFF TO COPE SECTION IS DAILY TURNING BACK 100 - 200 WALK-INS AND 500 TRAVEL AGENCY CASES WITH RESULTANT COMPLAINTS AND DIMINISHING PUBLIC IMAGE FOR CONSULAR SECTION, AND ENTIRE EMBASSY.

6. DURING PAST SEVERAL MONTHS WALK-IN APPLICANTS HAVE BEGUN LINING UP IN FRONT OF CONSULATE AS EARLY AS 4:45 P.M. THE DAY BEFORE IN HOPES OF BEING ATTENDED NEXT DAY. DOOR TO CONSULAR ENTRY ON 3RD FLOOR BROKEN DOWN LAST WEEK BY CRUSH OF APPLICANTS WHO HAD MANAGED TO REACH AREA IN SPITE OF GUARDS AND FIST FIGHTS AND SHOVING MATCHES FOR PLACES IN LINE ARE A DAILY OCCURANCE WITH OCCASIONAL MINOR INJURIES.

7. WE ARE NOW BEGINNING TO GET SOME PRESS INQUIRIES DUE TO SITUATION AND CAN ANTICIPATE A PUBLIC RELATIONS PROBLEM AS A RESULT.

8. IT WOULD BE FAIR TO SAY THAT EVERY OFFICER IN THIS MISSION HEARTILY CONCURS IN FOLLOWING REQUEST FOR ACTION BY DEPARTMENT.

1) AN ADDITIONAL CONSULAR OFFICER POSITION BE ESTABLISHED AND AN OFFICER ASSIGNED AT SOONEST POSSIBLE DATE. IN THE MANTIME HOWEVER REQUEST SPANISH SPEAKING VISA OFFICER BE SENT AT ONCE REPEAT AT ONCE ON TDY UNTIL ADDITIONAL PERMANENT POSITION REQUESTED CAN BE FILLED.

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PAGE 03 STATE 012012

2) THREE ADDITIONAL LOCAL POSITIONS ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED FOR LOB AND LOC WORK IN FILE ROOM.

9. IN CONNECTION WITH LATTER REQUEST GENERAL SALISBURY, CHIEF MILITARY ASSISTANCE GROUP HAS ORGANIZED USMILGP WIVES ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS OF 2 PER DAY TO ASSIST VOLUNTARILY REPEAT VOLUNTARILY IN FILE ROOM UNTIL POSITIONS REQUESTED CAN BE

OBTAINED AND FILLED.

10. THE DEPARTMENT'S MOST URGENT ATTENTION TO THE FOREGOING  
WOULD BE APPRECIATEDM  
HILL UNQTE KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Office:** ORIGIN ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BUENOS AIRES 9315  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <17 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VISA ISSUANCES  
**TAGS:** CVIS, APER, BEXP, AR  
**To:** SANTIAGO SAO PAULO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006